

2019-2020

ACE REPORT



OFFICE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY
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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ACE (Academy of Civic Engagement) is a City of Birmingham initiative with the central goal of getting residents directly involved and engaged with their local municipal government.

ACE is a city-wide leadership initiative aimed at bringing everyday citizens together for a deeper understanding of how the City is working for them and how they can plug into a variety of opportunities.

ACE wants to prepare residents to go out into their communities to act, serve, and lead. You must be 16 years old and a resident of the City of Birmingham to participate.

MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Josh Coleman

The civic engagement program known as ACE: The Academy of Civic Engagement was born out of Mayor Randall L. Woodfin's vision for a transparent and inclusive government.

ACE was created as an engagement process meant to demystify municipal governance and allow residents to participate in their government. This project was the first citywide leadership initiative for Birmingham residents. Mayor Woodfin invited residents to join his staff to get a deeper understanding of how the city is working for them, as well as how residents can plug into a variety of opportunities.

The creation of ACE realized goals featured prominently in the mayor's strategic plan: The Woodfin Way. Without the help and support offered from each of you, ACE would not be the success it is today. If you haven't already participated in an ACE session as either a participant or presenter, now is the time to get involved as the program continues its legacy impact on our community.





ABOUT THIS REPORT

The program was delivered in the summer of 2019 and fall of 2019 through an interactive, face-to-face format. It was delivered in the fall of 2020 through a innovative virtual format. The classes were led by department heads who served as subject matter experts to deliver lectures, powerpoint presentations, or projects around the curriculum.

In the 2019 sessions, ACE participants toured City Hall and met for their class sessions at one of the five Birmingham Public Library sites (Avondale, Springville Rd, Downtown Central, North Birmingham, and Five Points West.) Food was provided at each session.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 ACE participants had a conducive virtual learning experience on the LRNG Platform. Weekly check-ins were held every Thursday on Zoom.

For ACE 2020, "Cultural Institutions " was added as a sixth topic. Participants were able to explore several prominent cultural institutions within the City of Birmingham. Some of which included: Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, CrossPlex, Vulcan Park and Museum, and several others!

THE 6 TOPICS

- PUBLIC SAFETY
- INFRASTRUCTURE
- CITY HALL TOUR
- RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT
- BUSINESS OF BIRMINGHAM
- CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

ACE GOES VIRTUAL

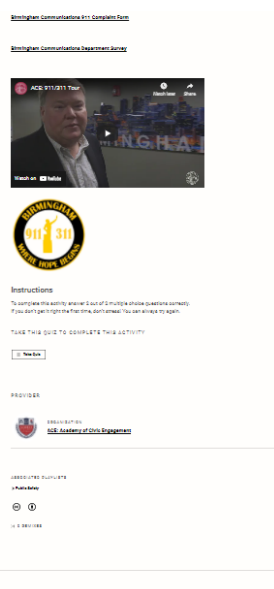
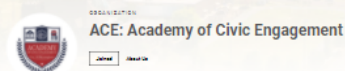
The first virtual ACE program was launched on October 22, 2020 with a class of 110 participants.

The LRNG Platforms served as the central learning hub for the 7 week course.

Weekly check-ins were held every Thursday on Zoom. Each check-in featured a speaker of choice.

The virtual program was commemorated on December 11, 2020 with 86 graduates.

LRNG Platform



YOU EARNED THIS BADGE!



BADGE

ACE: Academy of Civic Engagement

COMPLETED



ACE PARTICIPATION SUMMER & FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

ACE ENROLLED

560

RESIDENTS WERE
ACCEPTED

ACE PARTICIPANTS

435

RESIDENTS
COMPLETED THE
PROGRAM



NEIGHBORHOODS

89/99

COMMUNITIES

20/23

DISTRICTS

9/9

"I look forward to becoming actively
engaged in my neighborhood!"

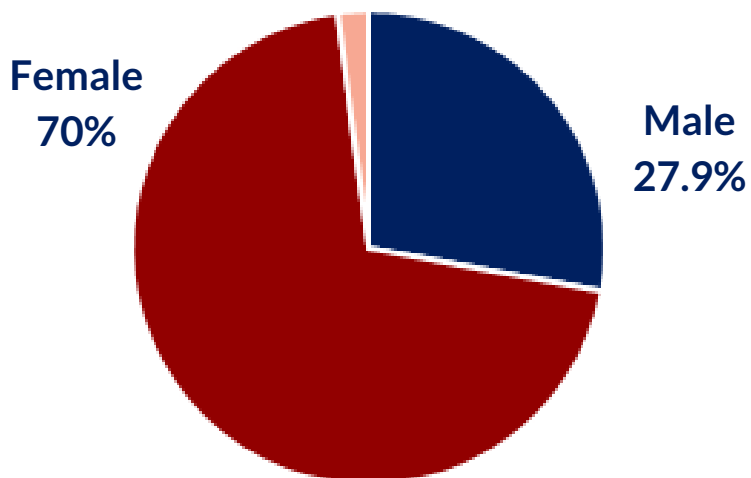
- *ACE GRADUATE*

ACE PARTICIPATION SUMMER & FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020

DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Non-Binary
2.1%



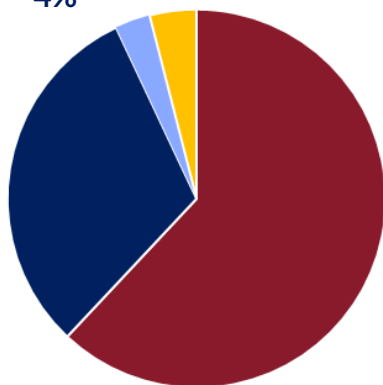
Women were the most represented in the past ACE classes. The ages of ACE participants were mostly balanced across the three sessions.

Race

Asian
3%

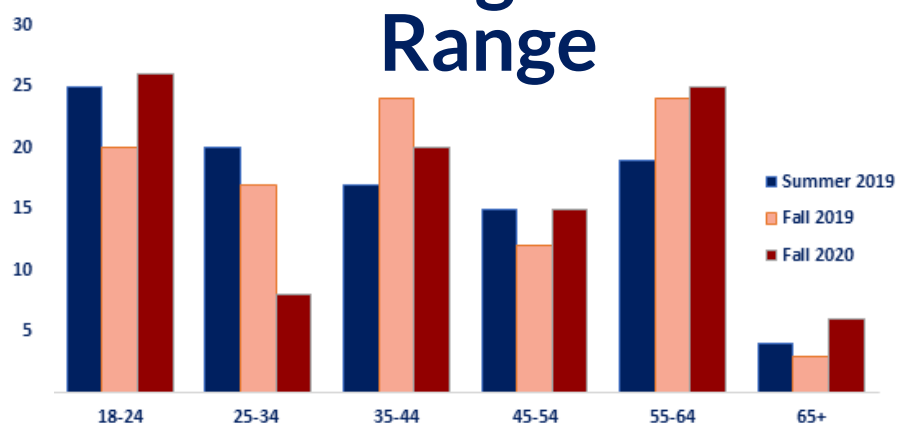
Other
4%

White or
American
31%



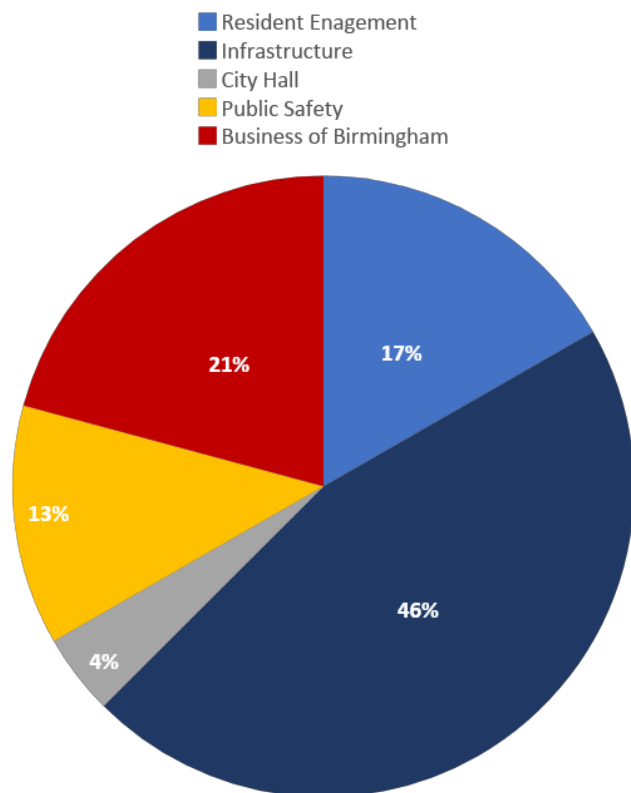
Black or African
American
62%

Age Range

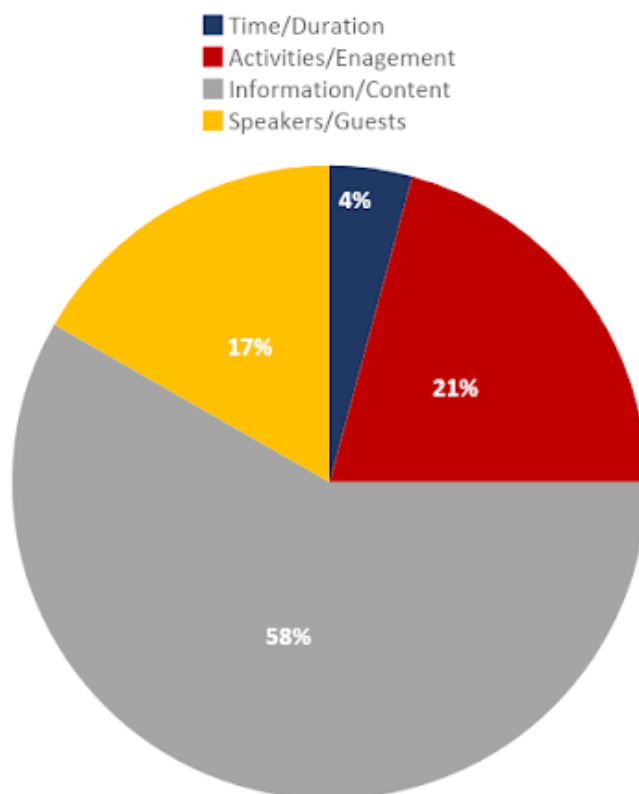


ACE SUMMER & FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020 PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE ACE SESSION?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?



“I was vaguely familiar with ACE, so I did not know what to expect. I talked to someone who participated in the program and she spoke highly of her experience. Now, I can truly say that ACE not only met my expectations but exceeded them as well.”

- *2020 ACE Graduate*

ACE SUMMER & FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020 PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK: KEEP, START, STOP, CONSIDER!

Keep

- History of Birmingham
- Great energy
- Program structure
- Welcoming environment
- Tour of City Hall
- Email reminders
- Sharing experiences from ACE Program
- Electronic survey

Start

- Shorter and more sensitive to time
- Allow more time for questions
- Outreach to younger demographics
- Virtual Networking Happy Hour with all the Department heads that presented
- Electronic recap notes
- Additional time to network with classmates
- More city-wide advertising
- Check-ins at 6:00 p.m instead of 5:00 p.m.

Stop

- Plans and proposals, more action

Consider

- Using a different virtual platform
- Incorporating some form of in-person interaction for virtual ACE



“ACE WAS A FIRST-TIME VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE. OVERALL, I WOULD SUGGEST MORE ACTIVE SPEAKERS, SPEAKERS THAT BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN GENERATIONS. MOST OF THE SPEAKERS WERE MORE MATURE. IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE, WE HAVE TO HEAR FROM YOUNGER GENERATIONS AS WELL.”

- ACE PARTICIPANT

MOVING FORWARD INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, REFERRING.

INFORMATION

- For the 2021 Application or more information about ACE please visit our landing page, [here!](#)

COMMUNICATION

- Email us at ace@birminghamal.gov with specific questions and inquiries about the program
- If you are an ACE Alumni, please join our 'ACE Alumni' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/BhamACE

REFERRING

- If you are looking for ways to stay active in ACE, share the program and this report with fellow Birmingham residents

Applications for the Summer 2021 class are now open and the deadline to apply is May 28th

[Apply](#)

Ace Application

Name *

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First	Last

Address *

<input type="text"/>	
Street Address	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State
<input type="text"/>	
ZIP Code	

Email *

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enter Email	Confirm Email

Phone *



Registration Now Open
Birmingham Residents Only

